

Chapter 32

👤 Rose's pov 👤

Luke tears his eyes away from me to gauge his mother's reaction. Her lips are parted in shock and fist clenched on the table before her. "Was that affection enough mother?" He taunts.

He doesn't wait for her reply and stands up. The chair screeches at the swift movement. "Now I'm done playing this game you're playing at father." He cocks a brow regarding Rathic. "What? Didn't think I would notice that you invited them-" He points at Riley and her dad. "To provoke me?"

Rathic opens his mouth to respond but doesn't get the chance to. "Save the dumb excuses you'll give. Just know that I rather die than marry this bitch-" He jerks a thumb to Riley, who looked on the verge of a meltdown. "Fuck your company, I do not want to have any part of it." He spits.

Rathic blinks before throwing his head back to let out a booming laugh. It startles me and I flinch. "You're going to let your entire future crumble for a girl? We both know you'll need me sooner than later. Don't come crying to me when she leaves you for a richer man." He rages on.

He then leans back on his chair in a laid back manner. "You know I could have you going to jail. I have your life in the palm of my hands. Don't provoke me and sit down."

Luke marches towards him and before any of us could blink, punches Rathic on his jaw. A sickening crack disturbs the silence and I'm left gaping at the scene.

Sophie gasps and jumps up, her chair falling at the force. I didn't watch to see Riley or her dad's reaction but I was sure they were equally as shocked.

Luke turns to me, a storm of rage in his eyes. "Let's go Rose."

I nodded quickly wanting to get away from there. My feet are swift as I walk towards him. He turns back to face his father whose lips were bleeding a trail down his jaw. "Then I rather go to jail." He spits then pulls my hand in his, guiding us away from the scene.

I'm struggling to keep up with his long strides when we near the car. Anger was clearly rolling off of him in waves. Once we were in the car he sped off. I consider asking him if he was alright but didn't want to add on to his temper when he clearly wasn't.

The ride is tense and awkward, far from what we had done a few minutes ago. The way he kissed me was gentle and sweet, but now he was far from sweet. His eyes are focused on the road, rage clouded those beautiful eyes of his.

His muscles are rigid, knuckles turning white from how tight he holds the steering wheel. I scan his features noticing how he kept on clenching his jaw. He was far gone. The Luke who had kissed me earlier is replaced by a seething one.

What did his father mean by sending him to jail? Did Luke do something bad enough to go to prison?

My mind is racing with the thoughts that I want to so desperately ask but I pinch my lips together. He doesn't look like he was in the mood to answer any questions.

I couldn't help but think that if I hadn't come then things would be different. But it was too late the damage was already done. I pressed myself in the seat and looked out the window.

Whatever thoughts that were racing through his mind I didn't want to disturb him. I wonder what time it is and if Ivory and Ivan are on their way to drop off Ashley. I missed her dearly and with a raging Luke currently beside me, I needed to see her face to put a smile on mine.

About twenty minutes later we are slowing down to Lily's. I'm already nervous to enter. It would just be us two again and with the way we kissed earlier I knew there was no going back. I was doomed.

He parks and we just stay in the car. Both of us in the silence of the car for a couple of minutes, until I break it. "I'm sorry." I apologized. I continued to stare ahead not wanting to see his reaction.

His head is snapped to mine in a second. "Sorry for what?" His voice is a mixture of confusion and disbelief.

I turn to stare into his blue orbs. "For causing that fight with your parents. If I hadn't come this wouldn't have happened." I mumbled.

His eyes narrow, piercing into my own. "Are you fucking kidding me?" He hisses. I flinch back, ready to take all his anger. But seeing my reaction his face softens and he sighs. "Look Rose, my parents and I are never on good terms. That fight wasn't your fault. And I was the one who asked you in the first place to act as my girlfriend today."

His eyes lowers in shame. "I'm sorry for dragging you into my mess. I'm so sorry that you had to see that." He drags his eyes back to look into my own, his stare so piercing that I had forgotten how to breath for a second. "But don't you ever think that any of it was your fault when it isn't." Sincerity leaking out of his tone.

My mouth parts, ready to answer him when the sound of a horn from a vehicle behind us stops me. I look back and notice that it was Ivan and Ivory. It wasn't late in the afternoon like they had planned to drop her off but it was fine. They probably needed to go on their way.

I got out of the car, Luke doing the same. Ivan was the first to get out and opens the door behind. I'm left gushing as he pulls a tired looking Ashley into his arms. "Awe is she tired?" I asked stretching my hands out to take her. I cuddle her small body to my own, loving the way she smelt of baby powder.

Ivan nods and grins. "She is. Had too much fun today so now she's exhausted." He laughs.

Ivory comes around the car with the bag in her hands and hands it to Luke. She scans my body and a smirk makes its way to her lips. "I see you guys have been pretty busy too." Her eyebrow is cocked in amusement.

I groaned. "Ivory stop with the act. I know Lily has already informed you about everything. Isn't that why you insisted on bringing Ashley back later?"

She shrugs not the least embarrassed. "I figured you lovebirds needed a bit more time. We would've dropped her later but I got a call from one of our neighbors. Apparently someone tried to break into our house."

I gasp. "What! Then you guys need to be on y'all way!"

They weren't my parents but they were one of the closest thing to one for me. My own parents haven't called for over five months now. It was their usual so I didn't take it to heart. They were furious with Noel's decision and the bond we had tried to mend back was slowly cracking.

After wishing them luck in finding the culprit they drove off. Luke and I entered the house a few seconds after. Ashley's head starts to get heavy on my shoulder and I knew she had fallen asleep.